

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/711,058

Applicant(s)

SMITH ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Lloyd A. Gall

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the telephone interview of 05 December 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 23-46.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> . |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 9. Other: The drawings filed on 8/19/04 are approved..

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Smith on December 5, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows: In paragraph [0015], line 1 of the specification, "a side" is replaced with --an end--. In paragraph [0037], lines 5-7 of the specification, "Between plates 60 and 62...decorative plate 60." is deleted. In claim 23, line 10, --said-- is inserted after "when". In claim 26, line 10, --said-- is inserted after "when". In claim 26, line 11, "one said a" is replaced with --at--. In claim 26, line 13, --said-- is inserted before "collar". In claim 31, line 2, "thickness" is replaced with --length--. In claim 32, line 2, "thickness" is replaced with --length--. In claim 33, line 11, --said-- is inserted after "when". In claim 33, line 12, "one or more" is replaced with --at least one--. In claim 33, line 12, "protrusions" is replaced with --protrusion--. In claim 36, line 2, "thickness" is replaced with --length--. In claim 37, line 2, "thickness" is replaced with --length--. In claim 38, line 11, --said-- is inserted after "when". In claim 38, line 12, "one or more" is replaced with --at least one--. In claim 38, line 12, "protrusions" is replaced with --protrusion--. In claim 40, line 2, "thickness" is replaced with --length--. In claim 41, line 2, "thickness" is replaced with --length--. In claim 42, line 8, "thickness" is replaced with --length--. In claim 42, line 11, --said-- is inserted after "when". In claim

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42, line 12, "one or more" is replaced with --at least one--. In claim 42, line 12, "protrusions" is replaced with --protrusion--. In claim 44, line 1, "44" is renumbered as --43--, and the "43" dependency is renumbered as --42-- under 37 CFR 1.126. Claim "45" is renumbered as --44--, its dependency is renumbered from "43" to read --42--, and "thickness" is replaced with --length-- in line 2 thereof. Claim "46" is renumbered as claim --45--. In claim 45, line 7, "thickness" is replaced with --length--. In claim 45, line 11, --said-- is inserted after "when". In claim 45, line 12, "one or more" is replaced with --at least one--. In claim 45, line 12, "protrusions" is replaced with --protrusion--. Claim "47" is renumbered as claim --46--, and its dependency is renumbered from "46" to read --45--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the examiner has adopted the positions set forth by applicant in the REMARKS filed on September 21, 2006. The prior art does not teach the claimed head portion having a depression and selectively movable into and out of nesting engagement with the collar, which collar includes a portion to engage the depression.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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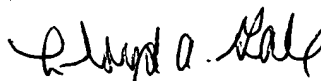
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lloyd A. Gall whose telephone number is 571-272-7056. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LG LG

December 5, 2006


Lloyd A. Gall
Primary Examiner